

Title: Who's Afraid of Jan Neruda? Notable deletions from editions of *Povídky malostranské* published during the Nazi Occupation

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Abstract:

Nineteenth-century Czech author Jan Neruda's most popular work *Povídky malostranské* (Tales of the Small Quarter) was reprinted frequently after his death, with virtually unaltered texts (spelling and minor clarifications aside) even in the early years of the Occupation. However, the 50 year anniversary of his death served in 1941 as a rallying point for Czech patriotic sentiment. This evidently focused the attention of Fascist censors on his work. A combination of obvious public interest in Neruda and other early Czech nationalists and shifting Nazi policies, including more aggressive censorship, lead to deformation of the texts, beginning with the numerous editions published in 1941. This paper surveys editions of the *Povídky* published during the Occupation and discusses specific areas of the text which clearly show the hand of the censor, comparing them across the different editions. It looks also at the general trends in publication of Neruda's works in the course of the Occupation, the return of the texts to original forms in the immediate post-war period, and the fragmentary evidence that at least one editor subtly attempted to warn readers of the alterations.

References:

Neruda, Jan. *Povídky malostranské*. Various editions.

Poláček, Václav, (ed.) 2004 *Kniha a národ 1939—1945* (Praha: Paseka)

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